

Atty. Docket No. 2000-0067-1
USSN 09/738,042

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A bidirection beam expansion line narrowing unit for a laser defining a laser chamber comprising:

- A) first direction beam expander positioned to receive a beam from said laser chamber said beam defining a generally rectangular cross-section and to expand the cross-section of the beam from said laser in a first direction;
- B) a second direction beam expander positioned to expand said cross-section beam in a second direction; and
- C) a grating positioned to reflect a selected narrow band of wavelengths back, via said second direction beam expander and said first direction beam expander, to said laser chamber for amplification.

2. (Original) A line narrowing unit as in Claim 1 wherein said first direction is horizontal and said second direction is vertical.

3. (Original) A line narrowing unit as in Claim 1 wherein said first direction beam expander is comprised of at least one prism and said second direction beam expander is comprised of at least one prism.

4. (Original) A line narrowing unit as in Claim 1 wherein said first direction beam expander is comprised of three prisms and said second direction beam expander is comprised of a single prism.

5. (Original) A line narrowing unit as in Claim 1 and further comprising a tuning mirror.

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6. (Currently amended) A narrow band excimer laser comprising:

A) a laser chamber comprising

- 1) two electrodes;
- 2) an excimer laser gas;
- 3) a blower means for circulating the gas;
- 4) a pulse power means for creating discharges between said electrodes to produce excimer laser pulses;

B) a resonant cavity comprising an output coupler and a line narrowing unit said line narrowing unit comprising;

- 1) first direction beam expander positioned to receive a beam from said laser chamber said beam defining a generally rectangular cross-section and to expand the cross-section of the beam from said laser in a first direction;
- 2) a second direction beam expander positioned to expand the cross-section of said beam in a second direction; and
- 3) a grating positioned to reflect a selected narrow band of wavelengths back, via said second direction beam expander and said first direction beam expander, to said laser chamber for amplification.

7. (Original) A laser as in Claim 1 wherein said first direction is horizontal and said second direction is vertical.

8. (Original) A laser as in Claim 1 wherein said first direction beam expander is comprised of at least one prism and said second direction beam expander is comprised of at least one prism.

9. (Original) A laser as in Claim 1 wherein said first direction beam expander is comprised of three prisms and said second direction beam expander is comprised of a single prism.